

News

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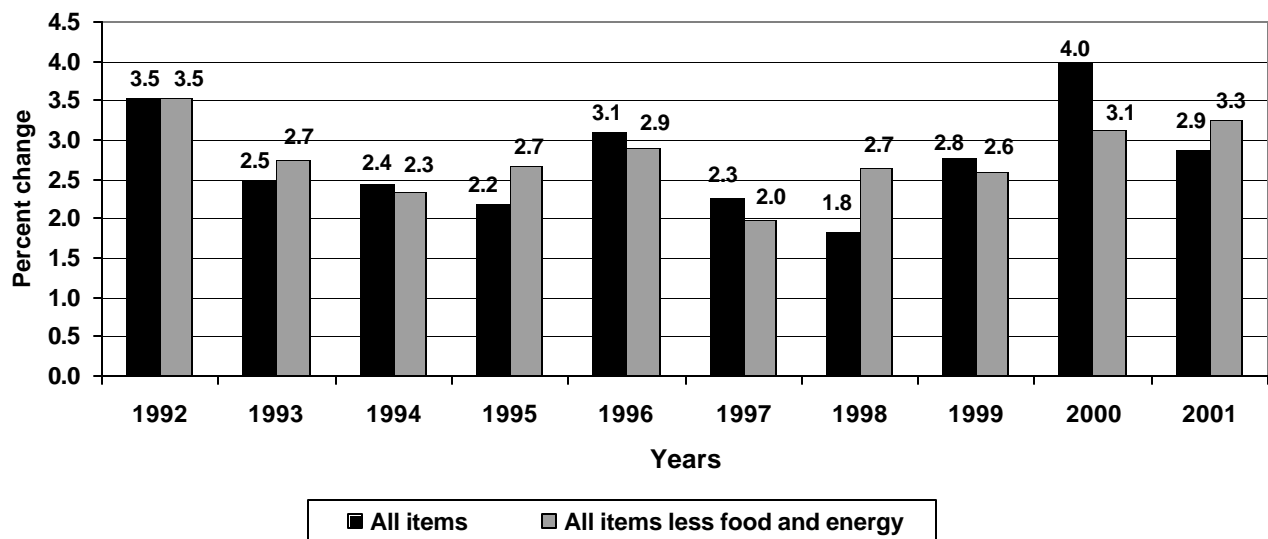
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BLS 01-83
FOR RELEASE:
Friday, December 14, 2001

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE WEST – NOVEMBER 2001

Overall consumer prices in the thirteen westernmost states edged down 0.1 percent in November. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson of the Bureau of Labor Statistics said lower gasoline prices led the decline, while lower household fuel prices moderated the increase in the housing expenditure category. Year to date, the overall price level increased 2.9 percent, compared to the 3.9 percent advance in the first 11 months of 2000. During the last 12 months, overall prices advanced 2.9 percent while the all items less food and energy index advanced 3.3 percent. Regional area Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.

**West Region Annual Percent Change
November 1992 to November 2001**



The transportation index decreased 1.1 percent this month, following a 0.9 percent decrease in October, and showed a 2.6 percent decline over the year. Gasoline prices fell 9.9 percent in November, and compared to one year ago, gasoline prices measured 18.8 percent lower. New vehicles' prices advanced 1.4 percent for the month, following a 0.5 percent increase the previous month. Nevertheless, new vehicles' prices remain 0.6 percent lower than in November 2000.

Apparel prices decreased 1.8 percent in November, the largest monthly decrease of all eight major expenditure categories. Since November 2000, the apparel index has declined 4.0 percent.

Prices declined 0.3 percent this month for education and communication, but have advanced 3.3 percent since November 2000.

Food and beverages' prices inched down 0.1 percent this month, but showed an over-the-year gain of 3.8 percent. November grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, decreased 0.2 percent, while prices paid for food away from home rose 0.2 percent. Compared to last year's level, these indexes have increased 4.0 and 3.9 percent, respectively. Alcoholic beverages' prices declined 0.3 percent for the month, but measured 1.7 percent higher than a year ago.

Medical care prices moved up 0.3 percent in November and have increased 5.3 percent during the past 12 months.

The other goods and services index, which includes tobacco and smoking products, advanced 1.1 percent in November. This increase offset the 1.0 percent decline in October. The index has advanced 4.0 percent from last year's level.

The housing index edged up 0.1 percent in November, equaling October's increase, and rose 5.2 percent over the year. The shelter index, which includes lodging away from home, increased 0.2 percent since October and advanced 5.3 percent for the past 12 months. Within shelter, rent of primary residence rose 0.4 percent and homeowners' equivalent rent of primary residence increased 0.3 percent in November. Compared to a year ago, these indexes advanced 6.1 and 5.6 percent, respectively. The fuels and utilities index declined 0.5 percent over the month. The utility natural gas index jumped 5.6 percent in November following five consecutive months of price decreases. The electricity index declined 2.7 percent in November, offsetting a 2.5 percent increase in October. In opposition to the monthly price movements, during the past year the utility natural gas index has fallen 10.3 percent, while electricity prices have increased 26.8 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations did not change in November and rose 0.2 percent during the past 12 months.

The recreation index advanced 1.1 percent this month and measured 1.4 percent higher from a year ago.

In November, the All Items, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the West now stands at 182.3 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$182.30 in November 2001.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2000	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001
Expenditure category						
All items	182.5	182.5	182.3	2.9	-0.1	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	295.0	295.1	294.7	-	-	-
Food and beverages	178.8	179.6	179.5	3.8	0.4	-0.1
Food	178.1	178.8	178.8	4.0	0.4	0.0
Food at home	182.8	183.8	183.4	4.0	0.3	-0.2
Food away from home	171.3	171.6	172.0	3.9	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	187.2	187.7	187.2	1.7	0.0	-0.3
Housing	188.3	188.5	188.7	5.2	0.2	0.1
Shelter	208.3	208.7	209.2	5.3	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence (1).....	201.8	202.9	203.7	6.1	0.9	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)	219.1	220.0	220.7	5.6	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities	169.9	169.3	168.4	11.2	-0.9	-0.5
Fuels	161.1	160.4	159.3	13.8	-1.1	-0.7
Gas (piped) and electricity (1).....	164.7	164.1	163.0	14.5	-1.0	-0.7
Electricity (1).....	182.5	187.1	182.1	26.8	-0.2	-2.7
Utility natural gas service (1).....	143.2	131.2	138.6	-10.3	-3.2	5.6
Household furnishings and operations	133.3	132.8	132.8	0.2	-0.4	0.0
Apparel	116.7	119.4	117.2	-4.0	0.4	-1.8
Transportation	158.0	156.6	154.8	-2.6	-2.0	-1.1
Private transportation	152.3	151.0	149.5	-2.7	-1.8	-1.0
New and used motor vehicles (3).....	100.8	101.1	101.8	-0.5	1.0	0.7
New vehicles	139.3	140.0	142.0	-0.6	1.9	1.4
New cars and trucks (3) (4).....	96.9	97.4	98.8	-0.5	2.0	1.4
New cars (4).....	135.5	136.3	138.2	-0.4	2.0	1.4
Used cars and trucks	155.8	156.2	155.8	-0.3	0.0	-0.3
Motor fuel	134.3	126.4	113.9	-18.7	-15.2	-9.9
Gasoline (all types)	133.1	125.2	112.8	-18.8	-15.3	-9.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular (4).....	131.7	123.5	111.0	-19.4	-15.7	-10.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (4) (5).....	127.3	119.4	107.1	-19.4	-15.9	-10.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium (4).....	130.9	123.9	112.5	-17.8	-14.1	-9.2
Medical care	275.0	275.4	276.3	5.3	0.5	0.3
Medical care commodities	254.8	255.3	255.4	4.8	0.2	0.0
Medical care services	280.0	280.3	281.4	5.5	0.5	0.4
Professional services (1).....	231.3	231.4	232.1	4.9	0.3	0.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2000	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001
Expenditure category						
Recreation (3).....	102.8	102.9	104.0	1.4	1.2	1.1
Education and communication (3).....	104.7	105.2	104.9	3.3	0.2	-0.3
Other goods and services	288.5	285.6	288.6	4.0	0.0	1.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	182.5	182.5	182.3	2.9	-0.1	-0.1
Commodities	152.1	151.8	150.6	-0.5	-1.0	-0.8
Commodities less food and beverages	136.3	135.4	133.8	-3.3	-1.8	-1.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	145.9	144.1	140.6	-4.7	-3.6	-2.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	167.0	162.7	158.4	-5.0	-5.1	-2.6
Durables	124.9	125.1	125.6	-1.2	0.6	0.4
Services	209.9	210.3	210.9	5.1	0.5	0.3
Rent of shelter (2)	221.2	221.6	222.1	5.3	0.4	0.2
Transportation services	204.9	205.4	207.2	2.9	1.1	0.9
Other services	233.1	234.0	235.0	3.7	0.8	0.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	177.6	177.6	177.4	2.8	-0.1	-0.1
All items less food	183.4	183.3	183.1	2.7	-0.2	-0.1
All items less shelter	173.1	173.0	172.5	1.6	-0.3	-0.3
Commodities less food	138.6	137.8	136.1	-3.1	-1.8	-1.2
Nondurables	162.8	162.2	160.4	-0.2	-1.5	-1.1
Nondurables less food	149.0	147.3	144.0	-4.3	-3.4	-2.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	168.5	164.6	160.6	-4.4	-4.7	-2.4
Services less rent of shelter (2)	218.5	218.9	219.8	5.0	0.6	0.4
Services less medical care services	203.9	204.4	204.9	5.1	0.5	0.2
Energy	144.8	140.2	133.1	-3.8	-8.1	-5.1
All items less energy	187.2	187.7	188.1	3.4	0.5	0.2
All items less food and energy	189.4	189.8	190.3	3.3	0.5	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	142.8	143.0	143.2	-0.5	0.3	0.1
Energy commodities	135.6	127.8	115.4	-18.5	-14.9	-9.7
Services less energy services	213.2	213.7	214.4	4.6	0.6	0.3

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

4 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

5 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.